

How I Spent My Summer Vacation

by Mark Teague

Take a poetic verse journey as a boy relives his imaginary summer vacation, where he meets real cowboys and saves the day.



Read

Before:

Introduce the book and tell the children a little bit about it. Follow that with a comment or question that is related to the story such as, *How did you spend your summer vacation?* Encourage a discussion so the children can comment, ask questions, and express their feelings. Set the stage for listening by asking an "I wonder" statement based on the cover illustration.

- I wonder why that cowboy is carrying the boy like that?

During:

Encourage the children to comment on the illustrations, ask questions, and predict what will happen next in the story. Children gain confidence and a sense of achievement through being able to correctly predict how a story will end. Point out "rare words" (e.g., those words that are not commonly used in every day conversation) and help the children relate the meaning in a way that makes sense to them.

Rare Words in *How I Spent My Summer Vacation*

- imagination: the ability to visualize and be creative
- westbound: leading and going West
- plains: a large section of land that is clearly visible and has no obstructions
- captured: to take somebody prisoner
- cowboys: a man who tends cattle, especially in the West
- growled: to make a low noise to express hostility
- wrangler: somebody who looks after horses
- roping: a strong cord made by twisting fibers together
- cowhand: cowboy or cowgirl hired to tend to cattle
- stirring: a slight movement
- stamping: to walk by taking short forceful steps
- stampede: headlong rush of animals
- matador: a bullfighter

After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- Where did the boy go during his summer vacation? Why did his parents send him on vacation?
- How did he get to Aunt Fern's house?
- Who captured the boy before he could get to Aunt Fern's house?
- Why did the cowboys take him?
- What did the boy wear? Describe some of the things the boy learned to do.
- Why did the boy and the cowboys go to Aunt Fern's house?
- What happened once they got there?
- How did the boy stop the stampede?
- Do you think his story was real or make believe? Why?



Do

My Summer Vacation

You will need: construction paper, crayons/markers, printer paper, glue, magazines and scissors

After reading the story, talk about your summer vacation or any vacation you have recently went on. Next allow the children enough time to draw pictures of their favorite summer memory or vacation. Hand out magazines and allow the children the opportunity to cut out and glue pictures that represent their summer memories. Glue the picture on a piece of construction and let the children present their pictures to the entire class.